

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

March 4 2008 TORNADOES

SITUATION REPORT # 1

0700 Hours March 5, 2008

The next Situation Report will be March 5 2008 at 1500 hours.

SUMMARY

In the early evening hours of March 4 a cold front moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. National Weather Service will conduct inspections during the day March 5, 2008 to make this determination. The NWS is receiving reports of storm related damage from across the Commonwealth. Preliminary damage reports have been received from several jurisdictions and state agencies. **No injuries or deaths have been reported.**

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with augmented staffing.

State of Emergency: No declaration has been made or recommended as complete damage assessments will not resume until daylight March 5.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared by:
Wise County at 1800 hours March 4 2008

WEATHER

Forecast:

Western Virginia
Wednesday: Light rain in the morning. Temperature high near 50. Mostly cloudy with winds between 5 and 15 mph gusting to 20 mph. Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy with temperature lows near freezing. West winds at 5 mph. Thursday: Mostly sunny with temperature high near 60. Winds from Southwest at 5 mph.

Eastern Virginia
Wednesday: Sunny with temperature near 62. West winds between 13 and 16 mph. Wednesday night: Clear with temperature low near freezing. Northwest winds between 3 and 6 mph. Thursday: Sunny with high near 60. Winds from Southwest around 6 mph.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators and Hazardous Materials Officers are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resource and shelter status.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue: One SAR request made for Big Stone Gap in Wise County. This request was withdrawn prior to arrival of Blue Diamond ground search team. Region 4 Technical Rescue Team is on scene at the request of Wise County.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Agency reports one manufactured home damaged in Russell County.
Power Outages reported in American Electric Power and Old

Dominion Power service areas. Agency personnel, including MRC, on standby to support sheltering as are other resources.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security: Virginia State Police (VSP)

Virginia State Police report possible tornado in Prince William County overturning vehicles on I-95. Flooding also reported in the Dumfries area.

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Crews are clearing roads of downed trees and other debris. Agency responding to request for signage from Wise County. No VDOT facilities have been reported as damaged.

ESF 12 – Energy:

Rappahannock Cooperative reports approximately 4,000 customers without power. Dominion reports approximately 6,000 customers without power.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

No resource requests have been made at this time.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County: Reports 6 houses destroyed, 15 with major damage, 25 with moderate or lesser damage. EOC is open and local emergency declared. One shelter has been opened. Power outage continues.

Louisa County: Reports 1 home destroyed, 4 damaged.

Essex County: Reports 2 buildings destroyed, 12 damaged. A fire station has sustained roof damage and 2 schools have sustained minor damage. One business (Veterinarian) reports damage with no injury/death to people or animals. Power outage continues.

Prepared by: Ted Costin, Plans Chief
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Brett Burdick, VERT Coordinator